

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

35. (Previously presented) A fabrication method comprising:
providing a plurality of solid bodies;
surrounding the plurality of solid bodies with a volume of carrier liquid, the volume of carrier liquid being sufficient to coat the bodies and fill the interstices between the bodies;
removing at least some of the carrier liquid that occupies the interstices so that the bodies become substantially close-packed solid bodies having a coating of the carrier liquid thereon, the coating being sufficiently thin that the bodies have interstices therebetween devoid of liquid, the coating being a state-changeable coating having an adhesive state and a non-adhesive state; and
causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the adhesive state so as to result in a solidified porous volume.
36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the solid bodies are hollow.
37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the bodies are of substantially the same density throughout their respective volumes.
38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein:
the carrier liquid includes a solvent and an adhesive material, the solvent being sufficient such that the adhesive material does not exhibit its adhesive property; and
causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the adhesive state includes removing a sufficient amount of solvent so that adhesive material left on the surface of the solid bodies defines the state-change coating and exhibits its adhesive property.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein:
the carrier liquid is a material above its melting temperature; and
causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the
adhesive state includes lowering the temperature of the material below its melting temperature.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the material is a
eutectic alloy.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the material is a
paraffin.

42. (Previously presented) A fabrication method comprising:
providing a plurality of substantially close-packed solid bodies, the bodies having
a state-changeable non-metallic coating, the state-changeable coating having an adhesive state
and a non-adhesive state, the state-changeable coating being sufficiently thin that the
substantially close-packed bodies have interstices therebetween; and
causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the
adhesive state so as to result in a solidified porous volume.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the solid bodies are
hollow.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the bodies are of
substantially the same density throughout their respective volumes.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42 wherein said providing the
bodies comprises:
surrounding the plurality of solid bodies with a volume of carrier liquid, the
volume of carrier liquid being sufficient to coat the bodies and fill the interstices between the
bodies; and

removing at least some of the carrier liquid that occupies the interstices to leave the coating on the bodies with the interstices devoid of the liquid.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein:
the carrier liquid includes a solvent and an adhesive material, the solvent being sufficient such that the adhesive material does not exhibit its adhesive property; and
causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the adhesive state includes removing a sufficient amount of solvent so that adhesive material left on the surface of the solid bodies defines the state-change coating and exhibits its adhesive property.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein:
the carrier liquid is a material above its melting temperature; and
causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the adhesive state includes lowering the temperature of the material below its melting temperature.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the material is a paraffin.

49. (Previously presented) A fabrication method comprising:
providing a plurality of substantially close-packed solid bodies, the bodies having a state-changeable coating, the state-changeable coating having an adhesive state and a non-adhesive state, the state-changeable coating being sufficiently thin that the substantially close-packed bodies have interstices therebetween;

causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the adhesive state so as to result in a solidified porous volume; and

thereafter, causing at least a portion of the state-change coating to change from the adhesive state to the non-adhesive state so as to allow at least a portion of the solid bodies to provide a volume in a formable state.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the solid bodies are hollow.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the bodies are of substantially the same density throughout their respective volumes.

52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 49 wherein said providing the bodies comprises:

surrounding the plurality of solid bodies with a volume of carrier liquid, the volume of carrier liquid being sufficient to coat the bodies and fill the interstices between the bodies; and

removing at least some of the carrier liquid that occupies the interstices to leave the coating on the bodies with the interstices devoid of the liquid.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein:

the carrier liquid includes a solvent and an adhesive material, the solvent being sufficient such that the adhesive material does not exhibit its adhesive property; and

causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the adhesive state includes removing a sufficient amount of solvent so that adhesive material left on the surface of the solid bodies defines the state-change coating and exhibits its adhesive property.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53 wherein:

the carrier liquid is a material above its melting temperature; and

causing the state-change coating to change from the non-adhesive state to the adhesive state includes lowering the temperature of the material below its melting temperature.